

# LETAC Progress Report:

## Where are we now? Where are we heading?

4/23/2021

**Purpose.** Formed by City Council, the purpose of the Law Enforcement Transparency and Accountability Commission (LETAC) is to make recommendations to Council to promote improved understanding and relationships between the Colorado Springs Police Department and the public. LETAC does not have oversight over CSPD, nor does LETAC investigate police-involved incidents or propose actions against department personnel. Visit [Law Enforcement Transparency and Accountability Commission | Colorado Springs](#) to see complete statements of LETAC's mission and goals, as well as the ordinance that authorized its formation.

**Where are we now?** LETAC is engaged in a “Listening and Learning” phase during which four broad topics have been identified for preliminary exploration. These are:

- ***Communications between CSPD and citizens***
- ***Racial Bias***
- ***Crisis Response***
- ***Use of Force***

**LETAC regular meetings are:**  
1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month, 6-8 PM,  
held virtually via Microsoft Teams:  
**[Click to Join Meeting\(link is external\)](#)**  
Telephone: 720-617-3426  
Conference ID: 629 946 63#

In addition to regular meetings listed in the box, LETAC also hosts Listening Sessions once per month for citizens to comment on any/all aspects of public safety and policing. **Our next Listening Session is April 28, 6pm: use the link in the box above.**

### The focus of our April 19 meeting was Use of Force

LETAC is exploring these questions:

1. Are **use of force** policies and practices sufficient to best meet the needs of our community?
  2. To what extent are mechanisms for **accountability** sufficient to promote public safety?
  3. When law enforcement investigates itself, how do we ensure there is minimal conflict of interest?
- On April 19, representatives of the Colorado Springs Police Department presented on use of force. CSPD proposed taking several sessions to address this highly complex topic. During their first presentation, CSPD reviewed these sub-topics: the U.S. Constitution (4<sup>th</sup> Amendment); the State of Colorado Constitution; Government Statutes and Case Law; Policy Decision Making; and Use of Force Policy. Sub-topics for future CSPD presentations will include: Policies for Specific Use of Force Tools; Training; and Accountability. Commissioners followed up with questions. These additional CSPD presentations on use of force are yet to be scheduled. The Commission anticipates deciding this as part of its “next steps” agenda item at the May 3 meeting which will focus on Commissioner learnings and further questions about use of force.
  - LETAC invited comments from the public.
  - Commissioners were reminded to complete a brief online survey designed by one of LETAC's subcommittees.
  - The Commission reviewed a “Listening & Learning Tour Communications Plan” produced by city staff at LETAC request. LETAC decided to combine several sub-committees tasked with various aspects of communication into a larger group and conduct a work session which will be posted and open to the public in compliance with open meeting requirements. Part of the agenda will be a review of the “preamble,” a document LETAC has used to clarify the parameters of public comments offered during Listening Sessions and regular Commission meetings.
  - There were several brief updates from LETAC sub-committees. No specific actions were taken.
  - Under the heading of “Future agenda items,” Commissioners made a number of suggestions, including exploring remaining use of force sub-topics sooner rather than later in the year; preparing to provide input on the city budget; making recommendations to City Council on crisis response (a previous Listening and Learning topic); refining collective understanding of LETAC's charter as we conclude the formal “Listening and Learning” phase that LETAC has been engaged in since January.

**Where are we headed?** On May 3, LETAC will consider key learnings, further questions, and next steps related to use of force. As its May 17 meeting, LETAC expects to determine its focus over the next several months.